

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An inner sole for an article of footwear capable of being removed from the article of footwear, said inner sole comprising:

an upper surface adapted to support a user's foot;

a lower surface adapted to rest at a bottom of the article of footwear;

an anti-slip insert comprising an abrasive paper or abrasive fabric and positioned in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area.

Claim 2. (*Original*) An inner sole according to claim 1, wherein:

said lower surface has a recess in which the anti-slip insert is positioned.

Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) An inner sole for an article of footwear capable of being removed from the article of footwear, said inner sole comprising:

an upper surface adapted to support a user's foot;

a lower surface adapted to rest at a bottom of the article of footwear;

an anti-slip insert comprising ~~[[by]]~~ an abrasive paper or abrasive fabric and positioned in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area, said anti-slip insert ~~[[is]]~~ being constituted by a coating of an abrasive amalgam.

Claim 4. (*Currently Amended*) An inner sole according to claim 1, wherein:

said anti-slip insert consists of said abrasive paper or said abrasive fabric.

Claim 5. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear comprising:

an inner sole removable from within the article of footwear, an abrasive insert being arranged between a lower surface of said inner sole and a bottom of said footwear;

said abrasive insert comprising a sheet of paper or fabric having a coating of abrasive particles.

Claim 6. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 5, wherein:

said abrasive insert is fixed to said lower surface of said inner sole.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) A sports boot comprising:

a shell;

a liner positioned within said shell, said liner not permanently fixed to said shell, said liner being removable ~~and non-fixed~~ from said shell, and said liner having a bottom ~~including~~ and an upwardly facing foot-supporting surface;

an inner sole supported by said upwardly facing foot-supporting surface of said liner;

an abrasive insert positioned between a lower surface of said inner sole and said upwardly facing foot-supporting surface of said liner.

Claim 8. (*Original*) A sports boot according to claim 7, wherein:

said liner includes a lasting sole and an upper, said upper of said liner and said lasting sole being sewn together;

said liner further includes an outer sole affixed beneath said lasting sole.

Claim 9. (*Original*) A sports boot according to claim 8, wherein:

said inner sole is positioned in contact with said lasting sole.

Claim 10. (*Original*) A sports boot according to claim 7, wherein:

said boot is a ski boot and said shell is a rigid plastic shell having been formed by injection molding.

Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) An inner sole according to claim 1, wherein:

said abrasive paper or abrasive fabric provides an abrasive anti-slip feature for the inner sole only upon a certain downward pressure being exerted on the inner sole.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) An inner sole according to claim 1, wherein:

said abrasive paper or abrasive fabric comprises a sheet of paper or fabric having a coating of abrasive particles.

Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 5, wherein:

said abrasive insert provides an abrasive anti-slip feature for the inner sole only upon a certain downward pressure being exerted on the inner sole.

Claim 14. (*Canceled*)

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A sports boot according to claim 7, wherein:

said abrasive insert provides an abrasive anti-slip feature for the inner sole only upon a certain downward pressure being exerted on the inner sole.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) An inner sole according to claim 7, wherein:

said abrasive insert comprises a sheet of paper or fabric having a coating of abrasive particles.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A sports boot according to claim 7, wherein:

said abrasive insert is positioned at least in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area of said inner sole.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper for covering a foot;

a sole attached to said upper, said sole having an upwardly facing foot-supporting surface;

an inner sole supported by an upwardly facing foot-supporting surface, said inner sole not being adhered to said upwardly facing foot-supporting surface;

a flexible sheet of paper or fabric having a first side bearing a coating of abrasive particles, a second side of said flexible sheet being affixed to a lower surface of said inner sole and thereby presenting an abrasive surface between said lower surface of said inner sole and said upwardly facing foot-supporting surface of said liner, said abrasive surface providing an anti-slip feature for the inner sole only upon a certain downward pressure being exerted on the inner sole;

said abrasive surface comprising means for preventing said insole from being driven rearward upon extraction of the foot from the article of footwear and for preventing said inner sole from deforming during extraction of the foot from the article of footwear.

Claim 19. (*Canceled*)

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 18, further comprising:

said coating of abrasive particles is positioned at least in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area of said inner sole.

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper for covering a foot;

a sole attached to said upper, said sole having an upwardly facing foot-supporting surface;

an inner sole supported by an upwardly facing foot-supporting surface, said inner sole not being adhered to said upwardly facing foot-supporting surface;

a flexible sheet of paper or fabric having a first side bearing a coating of abrasive particles, a second side of said flexible sheet being affixed to a lower surface of said inner sole and thereby presenting an abrasive surface between said lower surface of said inner sole and said upwardly facing foot-supporting surface of said liner, said abrasive surface providing an anti-slip feature for the inner sole only upon a certain downward pressure being exerted on the inner sole;

said abrasive surface comprising means for preventing said insole from being driven rearward upon extraction of the foot from the article of footwear and for preventing said inner sole from deforming during extraction of the foot from the article of footwear;

said abrasive surface comprising a coating of an abrasive amalgam applied by means of a spray gun or a brush.

Claim 22. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 21, further comprising:

said coating of an abrasive amalgam is located at least in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area of said inner sole.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 18, wherein:

said article of footwear is a sports boot comprising a rigid plastic shell and a removable liner positioned within said rigid plastic shell, said upper is an upper of said removable liner;

said inner sole is removably positioned within said liner and not fixed in place relative to said liner.

Claim 24. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 21, wherein:

said article of footwear is a sports boot comprising a rigid plastic shell and a removable liner positioned within said rigid plastic shell, said upper is an upper of said removable liner;

said inner sole is removably positioned within said liner and not fixed in place relative to said liner.

Claim 25. (*Previously Presented*) An inner sole according to claim 1, wherein:

the inner sole has a flexibility for being deformed into an accordion shape during withdrawal of a wearer's foot from the article of footwear.

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) An ~~inner sole~~ article of footwear according to claim 5, wherein:

the inner sole has a flexibility for being deformed into an accordion shape during withdrawal of a wearer's foot from the article of footwear.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) A sports boot ~~An inner sole~~ according to claim 7, wherein:

the inner sole has a flexibility for being deformed into an accordion shape during withdrawal of a wearer's foot from the article of footwear.

Claim 28. (*Currently Amended*) An ~~inner sole~~ article of footwear according to claim 18, wherein:

the inner sole has a flexibility for being deformed into an accordion shape during withdrawal of a wearer's foot from the article of footwear.

Claim 29. (*New*) An inner sole according to claim 2, wherein:

said anti-slip insert is the only anti-slip insert of the inner sole;

said recess of the lower surface of the inner sole is located at least in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area of the inner sole.

Claim 30. (*New*) A sports boot according to claim 7, wherein:

said lower surface of said inner sole has a recess;

the abrasive insert is positioned in said recess.

Claim 31. (*New*) A sports boot according to claim 30, wherein:

said inner sole includes a lowermost felt layer having a lower surface;

said recess is in the lower surface of said felt layer.

Claim 32. (*New*) A sports boot according to claim 7, wherein:

said abrasive insert is affixed to said inner sole and is the only abrasive insert affixed to said inner sole;

said lower surface of said inner sole has a recess located at least in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area of said inner sole.

Claim 33. (*New*) A sports boot according to claim 8, wherein:

said lower surface of said inner sole has a recess;

the abrasive insert is positioned in said recess.

Claim 34. (*New*) A sports boot according to claim 33, wherein:

said inner sole includes a lowermost felt layer having a lower surface;

said recess is in the lower surface of said felt layer.

Claim 35. (*New*) A sports boot according to claim 8, wherein:

said abrasive insert is affixed to said inner sole and is the only abrasive insert affixed to said inner sole;

said lower surface of said inner sole has a recess located at least in a metatarsophalangeal articulation area of said inner sole.